

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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February 10, 2004

FROM: JAMES A. FELTEN, Public Health Programs Administrator
Department of Public Health

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES – HEALTH
RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FUNDING FOR NATIONAL
HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Ratify the action of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in executing a grant application to the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) for Health Resources and Services Administration funding to develop, implement and intensify regional terrorism preparedness plans and protocols for hospitals, outpatient facilities, EMS systems, and poison control centers in the amount of \$1,425,521 for the period September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004.
2. Ratify the action of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in executing a certification that funds received by the County under this application will not be used to supplant funding for existing levels of service and will be expended only for purposes specified in the application for local funding approved by CDHS.
3. Acting as the Governing Board for the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency, ratify the action of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute certifications that funds received by Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) under this application will not be used to supplant funding for existing levels of service and will be expended only for purposes specified in the application for local funding approved by CDHS.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this item will ratify the actions of the Chairman related to submission of a grant application for hospital preparedness funds. These funds will be used by medical service providers in the County to purchase equipment and supplies.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides states with funding for the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program to prepare hospitals and supporting health care systems to deliver coordinated and effective care to victims of terrorism and other public health emergencies. In June 2002, HRSA awarded funds to States for developing and implementing regional plans to improve the capacity of the health care system, including hospitals, emergency departments, outpatient facilities, emergency medical services systems, and poison control centers, to respond to incidents requiring mass immunization, isolation, decontamination, diagnosis, and treatment in the aftermath of terrorism or other public health emergencies. For the first year of the grant, the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) coordinated the submission of an application in the amount of \$210,500 to CDHS to provide State-purchased equipment to hospitals in the County. For the current year, CDHS is contracting with the County (Department of Public Health) to coordinate the application and act as fiscal agent for the grant. CDHS is permitted to contract with local health departments without a formal procurement process.

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Agencies have the option to request standardized equipment and supplies from a State-approved purchase list, and these procurements will be handled directly by CDHS. Agencies requesting other equipment or training will be funded via subcontracts administered by the Department of Public Health, which will act as fiscal agent for purposes of administering these funds in the County. The hospitals that have requested equipment or funds under this application include ARMC, Barstow Community Hospital, Bear Valley Community Hospital, Chino Valley Community Hospital, Colorado River Community Hospital, Community Hospital of San Bernardino, Desert Valley Hospital, Doctors Hospital Montclair, Hi-Desert Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente-Fontana, Loma Linda University Medical Center, Mountain Community Hospital, San Antonio Community Hospital, St. Bernadine Medical Center, Victor Valley Community Hospital and the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Medical Center. Four skilled nursing facilities, three private medical clinics, and the Regional Fire Protection Authority Desert Communications Center will receive equipment and/or be connected to the ReddiNet system. ICEMA has requested funding for equipment and funding to provide training in personal protective equipment to hospital staff throughout the County.

The Hospital Association of Southern California, at the request of the Department, convened a meeting of hospital administrators and disaster planners to provide information on the availability of HRSA funding. ICEMA contacted large Skilled Nursing Facilities to provide them with information. The Department also invited community clinic representatives to the Bioterrorism Advisory Committee to provide information and provide an opportunity for participation in the program. All entities that expressed interest in the program were included in the application. San Bernardino County requested a total of \$1,425,521, the full amount allocated to the County.

The local Bioterrorism Advisory Group (a local planning group with representation from public and private health care providers, law enforcement, emergency management, and other concerned entities) has been expanded in order to meet the HRSA requirement for a local planning group. A representative from the local health jurisdiction, a hospital representative, a clinic representative, and a representative of the local Emergency Medical Services Agency must sign the application.

Each entity that receives HRSA funds or HRSA funded equipment under this application is required to submit a certification against supplanting non-federal funds that would otherwise be made available for the funded activities. The County's Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and ICEMA are requesting equipment and/or funding under this application, and both must submit a certification against supplanting signed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

This application was due to the State no later than January 30, 2004. Although final application guidance was received November 17, 2003, the process of contacting, coordinating requests, and obtaining certifications from hospitals, large community clinics, Skilled Nursing Facilities, and other participating entities was time consuming. The Department was unable to get the item to the Board of Supervisors in time to meet the application deadline. Accordingly, the item is being presented for ratification at this time. The Department expects award notification later this month. Funding is noncompetitive.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles Larkin, Deputy County Counsel, (909) 387-4177) on January 26, 2004. This item has also been reviewed by County Administrative Office (Carol Hughes, Administrative Analyst, (909) 388-0211) on January 29, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This item will result in no local cost to the County. When notification of approval of the application is received, the Department will return to the Board to accept and budget any funds resulting from the application.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the Department's proposal and recommends this action as it will impose no local cost to the County.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: James A. Felten, Public Health Programs Administrator, (909) 387-9146